

In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) In the production of refractory articles, the improvement comprises using a ~~powdered~~ polycondensation product produced by reacting a bisphenol residue from the production of bisphenols with an aldehyde in an acidic medium and adding at least one phenolic compound thereto.

Claim 2 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the bisphenol residue is from bisphenol A production.

Claim 3 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the aldehyde is formaldehyde.

Claims 4 and 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended) In the production of refractory molded bodies, the improvement comprises using a ~~powdered~~ polycondensation product produced by reacting a bisphenol residue from the production of bisphenols with an aldehyde in an acidic medium and adding at least one phenolic compound thereto.

Claim 7 (currently amended) In the production of molded non-woven fabric elements, the improvement comprises using a ~~powdered~~ polycondensation product produced by reacting a bisphenol residue from the production of bisphenols with an aldehyde in an acidic medium and adding at least one phenolic compound thereto.

Claim 8 (currently amended) In the production of unmolded articles used in the refractory industry, the improvement comprising using a powdered polycondensation product produced by reacting a bisphenol residue from the production of bisphenols with an aldehyde in an acidic medium and adding at least one phenolic compound thereto.

Claim 9 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the phenolic compound is phenol.

Claim 10 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the polycondensation product is dissolved in a solvent.

Claim 11 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 10, the solvent is high boiling.

Claim 12 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 10, the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, polyglycols and phthalates.